



AK RIDGE RESERVATION

Environmental Management

January 7, 1998

Mr. Rod Nelson
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
DOE/ORO
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Nelson:

At our January 7, 1998 meeting, the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (ORREMSSAB) reviewed and approved the enclosed "Community Guidelines for End Use of Contaminated Properties on the Oak Ridge Reservation."

We look forward to receiving your written response to these guidelines. Thank you for your continued support of the ORREMSSAB.

Sincerely,

William M. Pardue

William M. Pardue, Chair
ORREMSSAB

WMP/sb

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Margaret Wilson, DOE
Mr. John Hankinson, USEPA Region IV
Mr. Earl Leming, TDEC
Ms. Susan Gawarecki, LOC
ORREMSSAB Members
EUWG Members



Community Guidelines for End Use of Contaminated Properties on the Oak Ridge Reservation

End Use decisions for the Oak Ridge Reservation and associated remedial activities must include consideration of the community's values. The public and the Department of Energy (DOE) have a mutual responsibility to deal with each other openly and honestly. To enable stakeholders to comment responsibly on end use and remediation options, DOE must provide accurate and timely information.

DOE's Environmental Management Program should be guided by end use recommendations that are provided by the stakeholder community, are endorsed by the City of Oak Ridge and can accommodate changing circumstances. Once end use recommendations are provided by the community, the federal government should commit to completing all remediation to meet recommended end uses and should provide opportunities for meaningful public involvement. DOE's goal should always be the protection of human health and the environment. In its decision-making, DOE should use the best available science and technology, while taking into account cultural, social and economic factors, environmental justice and risks to workers.

The following guidelines have been developed for DOE to use in making future use decisions for contaminated property. DOE should explain how the guidelines are incorporated or cannot be incorporated into each of its decisions. These guidelines are consistent with the community guidelines developed by the End Use Working Group.

1. Contaminated material left on site, regardless of the site's end use, must be controlled to prevent further spread.
2. The federal government should work with state and local governments, in consultation with the public, to establish and fund a long-term stewardship program for contaminated lands.
3. DOE and its contractors should minimize impacts on the environment during remediation and maximize restoration of the environment after remediation.
4. Areas with residual contamination should have buffer zones that protect current and future nearby populations.
5. End use decisions for contaminated lands should not impede the continuing use and development of Oak Ridge Reservation lands, and should allow for continuing and future employment and research opportunities.
6. When siting additional facilities, DOE should use brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites.

7. Waste should be relocated only to reduce total risks to human population and the environment.
8. Controls on public access in lieu of remedial actions should be used only in cases where DOE has satisfied the community that further restoration is not feasible.
9. DOE's program offices must coordinate their activities and end use decisions and should provide for meaningful, broad-based public involvement.
10. End use decisions should be re-evaluated as better technologies become available.
11. End use decisions should strive to reduce the amount of land requiring long-term control.
12. End uses of contaminated sites should be compatible with projected uses of adjacent properties.

It should be noted that these Community Guidelines complement, but do not alter, the nine CERCLA (Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act) criteria that must be considered by DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. These CERCLA criteria are:

- Overall protection of human health and the environment
- Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
- Long-term effectiveness and permanence
- Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume
- Short-term effectiveness
- Implementability
- Cost
- Regulatory acceptance
- Community acceptance